

## Sudan – South Sudan Relations Analysis: November 13, 2012 – November 27, 2012



### Increased Border Tensions and Implications for the Future of Cooperation

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The three-day bombing campaign of the Kiir Adhem by the Sudanese air force marks an escalation in border tensions. The attack was caused by the Sudan Revolutionary Front's (SRF) presence in the contested North Aweil region.<sup>1</sup> Accusations from South Sudan, that this was an attack on civilians in their territory, have been taken to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and promptly denied by Khartoum.<sup>2</sup> Regardless of the debated particulars of the bombing, the incident marks a dramatic escalation in hostilities in the largely peaceful relationship, which had characterized the Sudan-South Sudan relationship since the Addis Ababa Agreement of September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The increase of military presence caused by what South Sudan calls a violation of the Addis Ababa Agreement, is a direct regression from the demilitarizing steps that were being taken from the joint security conference earlier in November.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, this also delineates a regression in the settlement of disputed regions, most importantly Abyei. If the security gains made in Addis Ababa are lost, the progress made on the joint administration of Abyei will collapse as well.<sup>4</sup> South of the border, many believe that these attacks were a deliberate attempt to spawn retaliation from Juba.<sup>5</sup> Moreover,

<sup>1</sup> "SAF says bombings on the border were not in South Sudanese territory," daily news programming for Sudanese borderlands, Radio Tamazuj (November 23, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> "South Sudan complains to Security Council," independent radio and news site funded by UNMISS & an NGO, Radio Miraya (November 23, 2012).

<sup>3</sup> "South Sudan complains to Security Council," independent radio and news site funded by UNMISS & an NGO, Radio Miraya (November 23, 2012). See Sudan-South Sudan Relations Analysis October 31-November 13.

<sup>4</sup> See Sudan-South Sudan Relations Analysis October 31-November 13.

<sup>5</sup> "South Sudan: 900 displaced by Sudan Air Strikes." *Sudan Tribune*, sec. News, November 28, 2012. (accessed November 28, 2012).

Khartoum continues to delay the implementation of the independent Abyei administration; it is important for Juba to remain in control of the situation and avoid feeding any excuses Khartoum may be trying to forge to disrupt the pending December 5<sup>th</sup> UNSC decision on the Abyei referendum, which favours South Sudan.<sup>6</sup>

Juba also needs to consider the role of the SPLM-N and the SRF in their border relations. Juba does openly sympathize with the SPLM-N, and according to Khartoum, does a lot more to support the insurgent group.<sup>7</sup> However, as important progress on Abyei and the oil transport does hinge on cooperation with Khartoum, Juba must find a balance between defiance of the Bashir regime and collaboration on mutual goals. Sudan has stated that the continuation of the operationalization of the Juba-Khartoum oil pipeline is contingent on Juba's renunciation of support for the SPLM-N.<sup>8</sup> The Sudanese Defense Minister has blamed the South for the implementation impasse, citing Juba's reluctance to put the SPLM-N on meeting agendas.<sup>9</sup> As 98% of South Sudan's national revenue comes from oil, this is of primary importance for the new nation.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> "Khartoum delays meeting of Abyei oversight committee, Juba claims," daily news programming for Sudanese borderlands, Radio Tamazuj (November 23, 2012).

<sup>7</sup> "SAF says bombings on the border were not in South Sudanese territory," daily news programming for Sudanese borderlands, Radio Tamazuj (November 23, 2012).

<sup>8</sup> "South Sudan reschedules resumption of oil production," independent radio and news site funded by UNMISS & an NGO, Radio Miraya (November 19, 2012).

<sup>9</sup> "Resumption of South Sudan Oil Production over Security Issues." *Sudan Tribune*, sec. News, November 7, 2012. (accessed November 18, 2012).

<sup>10</sup> See Sudan-South Sudan Relations Analysis October 31-November 13.